

CLAIMS

We claim:

1 1. A PCMCIA card including a secondary device that provides functionality to a
2 primary device when said PCMCIA device is coupled to said primary device, said primary
3 device providing power to said PCMCIA card at a maximum current and power level, and
4 said secondary device having operating characteristics that, at least at certain times,
5 exceed said maximum current level, said PCMCIA card comprising:
6 a storage battery capable of delivering power at a current and/or power level that
7 exceeds the maximum current and/or power level provided by said primary device,
8 whereby said PCMCIA card is configured to couple said secondary device to said storage
9 battery on demand to provide said secondary device with power at a current and/or power
10 level that exceeds the maximum current and/or power level provided by said primary
11 device.

1 2. A PCMCIA card according to claim 1, further comprising:
2 a battery charging circuit, coupleable between said primary device and said storage
3 battery; whereby said battery charging circuit is configured to recharge said storage
4 battery.

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1 3. A PCMCIA card according to claim 2, wherein said secondary device
2 comprises a device that provides wireless functionality to said primary device.

1 4. A PCMCIA device according to claim 3, wherein said secondary device further
2 comprises a device that provides cellular functionality to said primary device.

1 5. A PCMCIA card according to claim 1, wherein said secondary device includes
2 a power amplifier that has power requirements that exceed said maximum current and/or
3 power level.

1 6. A PCMCIA card according to claim 5, wherein said primary device comprises
2 a portable computer.

1 7. A PCMCIA card according to claim 5, wherein said primary device comprises
2 a PDA.

1 8. A PCMCIA card as set forth in claim 5, wherein said primary device comprises
2 a desktop computer.

1 9. A PCMCIA card according to claim 1, wherein said storage battery comprises
2 one or more Lithium Ion batteries.

1 10. In a PCMCIA card including a secondary device that provides functionality to
2 a primary device when said PCMCIA device is coupled to said primary device, said
3 primary device providing power to said PCMCIA card at a maximum current and power
4 level, and said secondary device having operating characteristics that, at least at certain
5 times, exceed said maximum current level, a method of providing power to said secondary
6 device that exceeds said maximum current level comprising the steps of:

7 providing said PCMCIA card with a storage battery capable of delivering power
8 at a current and/or power level that exceeds the maximum current and/or power level
9 provided by said primary device; and

10 coupling said secondary device to said storage battery on demand to provide said
11 secondary device with power at a current and/or power level that exceeds the maximum
12 current and/or power level provided by said primary device.

1 11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

2 providing said PCMCIA device with a battery charging circuit, coupleable between
3 said primary device and said storage battery; and

4 recharging said storage battery using said battery charging circuit at predetermined
5 times.

1 12. The method of claim 10, wherein said storage battery is built into said
2 PCMCIA card.

1 13. A system for providing functionality to a primary device when a PCMCIA
2 device is coupled to said primary device, said primary device providing power to said
3 PCMCIA card at a maximum current and power level, and said secondary device having
4 operating characteristics that, at least at certain times, exceeds said maximum current level,
5 said system comprising:

6 a PCMCIA card;

7 a storage battery built in to said PCMCIA card, said storage battery capable of
8 delivering power at a current and/or power level that exceeds the maximum current and/or
9 power level provided by said primary device; and

10 coupling means for coupling said secondary device to said storage battery on
11 demand, to provide said secondary device power at a current and/or power level that
12 exceeds the maximum current and/or power level provided by said primary device.

1 14. The system of claim 13, further comprising:

2 a battery charging circuit, coupleable between said primary device and said storage
3 battery; whereby said battery charging circuit is configured to recharge said storage
4 battery.

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1 15. The system according to claim 14, wherein said secondary device comprises
2 a device that provides wireless functionality to said primary device.

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1 16. The system according to claim 15, wherein said secondary device further
2 comprises a device that provides cellular functionality to said primary device.

1 17. The system according to claim 13, wherein said secondary device includes a
2 power amplifier that has power requirements that exceed said maximum current and/or
3 power level.

1 18. The system according to claim 17, wherein said primary device comprises a
2 portable computer.

1 19. The system according to claim 17, wherein said primary device comprises a
2 PDA.

1 20. The system as set forth in claim 17, wherein said primary device comprises
2 a desktop computer.

1 21. The system according to claim 13, wherein said storage battery comprises one
2 or more Lithium Ion batteries.